



DISASTER BLASTER



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Issued by the Office of Emergency Management
Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services

Message from Staff.

by Kathleen Henning, M.A., CEM

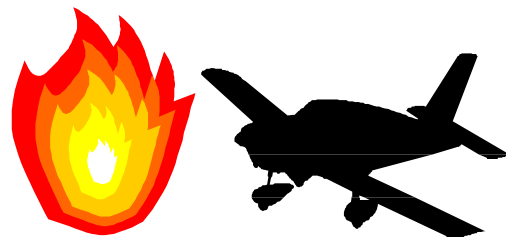
If you were wondering about the size of this newsletter, you are right. We are issuing a double volume since we missed the December issue (we were all sort of busy with Y2K and January snowstorms). One major change was recently implemented. The staff of the Office of Emergency Management was reorganized under the Office of the Fire Administrator under "Research and Planning" in December. On March 12th District Chief E. "Buddy" Ey was named head of Research and Planning. One of his first tasks has been to work with our staff to develop an Automation Plan, post Y2K, for the Emergency Operations Center. Kathee Henning, Bob Nemchin, Mike Krumlauf, Kathy Talbott, Trudy Georgestone, and Barbara Moore worked in the EOC over Y2K and the rollover of the New Year (see separate article below). We all hope your winter has been a safe one. Please remember last summer's drought and continue to take the necessary water conservation steps to help us through this summer.

WHAT' HAPPENED

NEW YEAR'S EVE, DECEMBER 31, 1999- JANUARY 1, 2000?

County Executive Doug Duncan, Council President Michael Subin, CAO Bruce Romer, SR CAO George Gonzales, Fire Administrator and EMG Chairman Gordon Aoyagi and the Emergency Management Group activated at 4:00 PM to discuss final coordination strategies. Volunteers and EOC staff were treated to a catered gourmet meal. Then it was back to

work, setting up our laptops, radios, and phone contacts in the EOC. At midnight, while the Executive was ushering in the New Year at First Night Celebration with our citizens, we were monitoring local and national events. As the New Year rolled in throughout the world, our Y2K office monitored activities and remained in touch with our worldwide partners. By 12:10AM we knew that our automation planning and remediation had worked. Our 911 Center, Transportation Management Center, the county's financial records, and all our mission critical systems were working just fine. A conference call with the Council of Governments at 2AM confirmed the same for the region. We spent the remaining weekend testing all the county systems, and activated the EOC again on Sunday to prepare for our first day of regular business January 3rd. (*continued page 2*)



FIRE AT AIRPARK-CAP FIREWATCH

Fire destroys four planes and damages hanger, as Civil Air Patrol responds. On the evening of March 2nd a fire in one of the hangers at the Gaithersburg Airpark destroyed four aircraft and units responded from the Gaithersburg, Rockville, and

Laytonsville fire departments, police, and other emergency services. The B-CC Squadron Cadets and Senior Members of the Montgomery County Civil Air Patrol held fire watch from midnight until 8AM on March 3rd. CAP volunteers kept a fire watch throughout the night to prevent re-ignition due to high winds. Crews had to be called back more than once to put out spot fires. Civil Air Patrol volunteers Capt. Bruce Drury, 2nd Lt Ray Soderberg, 2nd Lt. Cary Secrest, SM Suzanne Shoemaker, C/Maj John Reutemann, C/Capt Michael Crockett, C/Capt John Samscock, S/SrA Timothy Gutmann, and C/A1c Natasha Lewandrowski will be given certificates of appreciation from the MCFRS and Emergency Management at their March 30th meeting.



(CONTINUED) – Y 2 K NEW YEAR'S EVE ROLLOVER

Representatives of PEPCO, Washington Gas, and WSSC joined us in the EOC. As the clock rolled over, we were in direct contact with hospitals, nursing homes, the Housing Opportunities Commission, State, and many other partners throughout the county and the region. Emergency Managers from across the country and around the world watched and kept in contact with Montgomery County who had taken a lead role in the integrated planning efforts. The leadership demonstrated by CAO Bruce Romer, EMG Chairman Gordon Aoyagi, and CIO Don Evans kept Montgomery County in the forefront of Y2K strategic planning. All of our combined efforts paid off. We want to thank the many volunteers who stood together with us, or were on alert at home or by pager if needed. Your commitment to preparedness meant that our citizens could feel assured that they could “ring in the New Year” without a hitch

or concern. The contingency planning done to prepare for Y2K provided us with a multi-platform, integrated response approach to system failures and community events which will be a solid foundation for all types of events that can occur, long after Y2K is still a memory. And for those of you who miss the intensive planning efforts of Y2K, you can always sign up to be on the planning team for Y3K (just kidding!). Again, on behalf of the OEM and our county agencies, thanks to all who worked so hard to make this effort look effortless and let it be appear to the public to be a “non-event” for both automation and terrorism preparedness issues. We all proved the value of Emergency Management planning and coordination! Thanks again to everyone who gave so much time to the effort, and gave up their holiday so that others might feel safe and secure in truly celebrating the start of 2000.

NATIONAL HONORS

Montgomery County's Emergency Management was recognized with two First Place Awards for local jurisdictions. The first came from the National Association of Counties and second was given by the International Association for Emergency Managers at their annual conferences. The County was recognized for their contingency planning for the Year 2000, Y2K Exercises, and Community Outreach. The International Association of Emergency Managers also awarded our office with a First Place Media Award for our *Disaster Blaster!* Kathleen Henning was awarded the national Certified Emergency Manager for another five years after completing the recertification process in January. Bob Nemchin will be taking the national recertification exam portion in April, and Mike Krumlauf will be submitting his completed work products for review by this summer.

TERRORISM PLANNING

Anti-Terrorism planning has taken a more prominent place following the highly successful efforts of Y2K. We are extremely pleased with the attendance in January to our

three Bioterrorism Awareness Workshops for Health, Hospital, and Emergency Service personnel. The 4 hour program, expected to draw 45 attendees, had over 200! Thanks to the partnership of our area hospitals and County agencies, especially the Dept of Health and Human Services. Special thanks to Washington Adventist, Holy Cross, and Suburban Hospitals who hosted our program which was taught by contractor SAIC. Other efforts are on-going. Chief Roger Strock was one of six State representatives to attend a national Office of Justice terrorism forum. Deputy Chief Ted Jarboe (Fire/Rescue), Lynn Frank (Health), and Kathee Henning (Emergency Management) are among the forty delegates to the regional Council of Governments Bio-terrorism Defense Planning Work Group who are helping to draft regional response procedures. Fire Administrator Gordon Aoyagi and Kathee Henning attended the Maryland Pandemic Influenza Workshop where coordinated planning with bio-terrorism efforts was proposed. The County's Terrorism Annex is under review for updates to our bio-terrorism procedures. Montgomery County has applied for FEMA anti-terrorism grant funds to conduct a Decontamination Workshop and terrorism exercise. Watch for more exciting efforts this spring as Montgomery County works with the DC Office of Emergency Preparedness, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and dozens of federal agencies in a 3 city national anti-terrorism exercise. The NBC (nuclear, biological, and chemical) anti-terrorism exercise will have a radiological/nuclear scenario for the Washington DC metropolitan area. Mike Krumlauf is on the planning team and will be our liaison with the command and communications group. The upcoming April tabletop will be followed by a May full scale exercise.



ARC UPDATE

The Montgomery County Chapter of the American Red Cross has been especially active working with the County this past year. Recently they responded to the Baltimore road fire. Throughout the year they have helped displaced families with emergency housing, clothing, bedding, and if that was not needed, helped with filing for insurance. Arnold Passman, Chairman of Disaster Services, reminds us that National Red Cross wants our local chapter to respond to all residential fires, including all single family house fires. Fire and Rescue and Police commanders are asked to call for Red Cross on any working residential fire. Arnold tells us Red Cross "wants to be there on the frontlines helping our community whenever needed."

In addition to emergency support services, our Chapter plans shelter operations through the EMG Shelter Task Force, working with Public Schools, Health and Human Services, Recreation, Emergency Management, and other county agencies such as the Volunteer Center, to improve shelter operations during severe weather emergencies. Volunteers Arnold Passman and Kenny Titcomb helped with the Communications class in Feb.

Kathee Henning has been working with Rocky Lopes from National Red Cross and curriculum and weather specialists from around the country as a member of the National Disaster Education Coalition. They have drafted a new *Masters of Disaster* K-8 school curriculum that will be coming out later this year. You can get more information on our Montgomery County chapter by calling 301-588-2515 or checking on their web site: www.redcross.org



MID-ATLANTIC DOGS SEARCH & RESCUE- GOVERNOR'S AWARD CONGRATULATIONS

Mid-Atlantic DOGS search dog "Torrie" has been selected by Governor Glendenning to receive one of the 10 awards being given at the 17th Annual Governor's Volunteer and Service Award ceremony. On April 13, Laura Totis, on behalf of Torrie, will be presented with the award in Annapolis, MD. Congratulations to you both. Congratulations are also in order to Laura Totis who was presented with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Community Service by the Johns Hopkins University and the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Laura was recognized for having given her time, resources, and energy to improve the community through volunteerism and citizenship.

MID-ATLANTIC DOGS SEARCH & RESCUE – FIVE SEARCHES

M.A.D has had five searches already this year. Jan 6th – Temple Hills, MD. Cadaver search for person missing since June, 1998. Three teams responded; Feb 5th – Temple Hills, MD. Cadaver search for possible homicide subject. Search cancelled prior to deployment of teams; body located in Anacostia by police; Feb 17 Hagerstown, MD. Cadaver search for possible buried fetus. One team responded; case still pending; Feb 21-22, 2000 – Ball Mountain, VA. Search for missing 8-yr. old. Six dog teams, one support and one walk-along responded throughout the 2-day search. The girl was found by a sweep team the evening of the 22nd. To improve their callout capability, Mid-Atlantic DOGS has offered its own pager to be cloned with the current Duty Officer pager offered by OEM for call-outs. M.A.D. members have been actively training every weekend, and March 5th completed their CPR recertification in our

EOC. On March 6th they attended a forensic anthropology lecture by Walter Reed Army Medical Center. They have also worked with the National Association for Emergency Managers to provide information on dog certification. M.A.D.'s Don Dennison participated as an Instructor in the *Communications in a Disaster* Feb. program highlighting volunteer use of radios and pagers for lost person searches.

The new officers are Allen Rossi – President & Standards Officer; Jane Servais – Vice President and Training Director; Mary Iannelli – Director at Large; Don Dennison – Secretary; and Sheila Fisher – Treasurer. At the annual election meeting Al Rossi was presented with a pencil drawing of Silke, who passed away on January 14, 2000. Silke was an operational canine member of the unit from 1990 until her retirement in 1997. For more information, check the M.A.D webpage at WWW.MIDATLANTICDOGS.ORG.



trailendfarm@erols.com

TROT.SAR is our mounted horse rescue resource, who often work closely with Park Police in large wooded and uninhabited areas. On April 1st and 2nd Mid-Atlantic DOGS, Chesarda, and TROT.SAR will be conducting a mock search field exercise as part of the Managing Search Operations course given by Univ. of MD, Baltimore campus.

There is a statewide emphasis on better planning for animals in a disaster. The MD Dept of Agriculture, in coordination with MEMA and the Humane Society is surveying each of the counties for the first time to identify evacuation shelters for animals. They have contacted the Agricultural Center in Gaithersburg as a site for evacuated horses and large animals. This June, Dr. Casper from the Maryland Dept of Agriculture is offering a Horse Rescue training program at the Timonium

Fairgrounds, open to Police, Fire and Rescue, and volunteers. During planning for Y2K, Trot.SAR members offered to work their own neighborhoods, assisting RACES and REACT volunteers to provide HF radio communications. We hope to have a joint exercise to test communications capability later this year. Also check the OEM webpage for a link information on Handling Animals during Disasters which Bob Nemchin coordinated with the Humane Society.

FIRST AID UNIT

The high school First Aid Unit volunteers have been very active in training classes throughout the fall and winter. At the Fire and Rescue tent at the fairgrounds last August, First Aid Unit volunteers helped by taking blood pressure readings for the public. Contact Captain Cindy Ramsey, Explorer Advisor, Kensington Vol. Fire Dept., the Montgomery County First Aid Unit, Explorer Post 521, for information on classes in First Aid, CPR, etc. for first responders.

REACT

REACT will be providing communications support for several upcoming walk-a-thon or bike-a-thon events. Activities will include support to the Montgomery County Department of Recreation, the March of Dimes, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the American Diabetes Association and the Chrones and Colitis Foundation. REACT will also be communication support for the annual Olney Days Parade. Radio Officer Mike Harvey has been active with the EMG Communications Committee throughout this past year. REACT continues to be the primary support to the Montgomery County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Montgomery County REACT has also been granted a FCC license modification for some additional UHF radio channels. They will be "vigorously upgrading their existing UHF Repeater system to incorporate these new channels," according to Harvey. Since the new frequencies are much quieter and have

fewer current users, the EMG Communications Committee anticipates that this will provide a significant upgrade to the REACT coverage within the County. Mike Harvey reports that REACT "will continue working with and supporting the Emergency Management Group as we enter hurricane season and as we approach the County's Agricultural Fair." Individuals interested in joining REACT are encouraged to contact the REACT voicemail hotline at (240) 777-2380.

RACES -- VOLUNTEERS MAKE Y2K A WELL COORDINATED EVENT

Thanks to all the RACES volunteers and to their officers RO John Creel and Deputy RACES Officers Michele Cimbala, Erinn Tordella, and Howard Gorden for all their support this past year for training, exercises, communication meetings, and for staffing the EOC during Y2K. Once again the RACES volunteers stepped up to the plate to help during the snowstorm of January 25-26, providing communication support to the Emergency Transportation Service. Thanks to Howard Gorden, W3CQH for keeping the weekly nets and COMMEX exercises with the State going, on behalf of RACES.

MARC REPEATER BACK ON-LINE

Montgomery County RACES Radio Officer John Creel (also Vice President of the TRI-COUNTY amateur radio club), joined others at a fall Montgomery County Amateur Radio Club (MARC) meeting to recruit new members for RACES. While John discussed the disaster response capabilities of RACES, Dep. RACES Officer Howard Gorden and staff Mike Krumlauf and Kathee Henning helped members fill out new and renewal applications. Many

individuals belong to several organizations such as MARC and ARES. As a RACES member they may be called on to assist with our EOC support, while as MARC they support community activities such as 10K runs and soccer game communication. Thanks to MARC for its continued support to OEM to use their 147.18 repeater with 6 remote receivers. The

repeater was out of service for many months but is back on line now.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

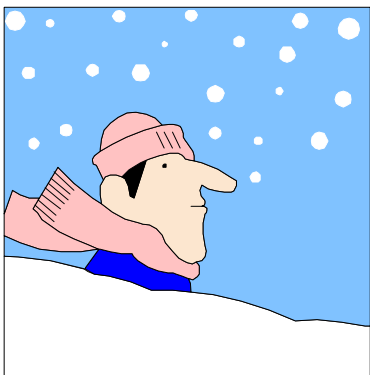
The Defensive Driving course and practical to drive EMC-1 is expected to be offered on a Saturday in June. The class needed to be pushed back from the spring so that we could have use of the PSTA driving test course. Once again we offer a special thanks to the Gaithersburg Washington Grove Volunteer Fire Dept. and Lt. Ken Knopp (also a REACT volunteer) for the use of their ambulance A86 to help with the practical driving test.

COUNTY FAIR

Mike Krumlauf will again be the EMG liaison with Fire Board coordinator Marcine Goodloe for our participation on the Fire and Rescue lot at this year's County Fair. We are looking at an EMG Volunteer day of Sunday, August 20th. Thanks to the groups that participated in last year's EMG Volunteer Day. Please contact Mike if you or your group are interested in doing demonstrations during the day.

VOLUNTEER ID CARDS

Just a quick reminder that volunteers need to have a current ID card if they wish to participate in Emergency Management activities, and especially in communications support to the Emergency Operations Center and command post operations activities. Please call Trudy Georgestone at 240-777-2328 if you have a question about your renewal application.



SNOWSTORM DECLARATION

On January 25-26 a blizzard with high winds, closed schools and required activation of our Emergency Operations Center. Damascus tied their NWS record for inches of snow. Plows had to work throughout the night, going over the same roads due to high winds. Many secondary streets were not reached until the second or third days. RACES volunteers helped provide communications support to the Emergency Transportation Service with volunteers from the Volunteer Center. The Maryland National Guard provided humvees support to Washington Adventist Hospital when we closed down the ETS. In March FEMA notified us that the federal/state declaration was being expanded and several additional counties in Maryland may be eligible for cost recovery directly related to snow removal and search and rescue efforts. OEM staff prepared preliminary paperwork, and we were still waiting for a response as this newsletter went to print.

HURRICANE SEASON STARTS

JUNE 1ST /SEVERE STORM CONFERENCE APRIL 27TH

Hurricane Season is predicted by the National Weather Service to be active this year. Be sure your family has at least one battery powered radio, several flashlights, smoke detectors and lots of extra batteries. There are even solar powered and crank radios now available. Keep a supply of plastic sheeting handy to cover windows during high winds, and store lots of water: at least one gallon per person per day. Have a supply of non-perishable foods as well. Hurricane season lasts from June 1st through October. OEM will be participating in the Maryland Emergency Management Agency Annual Severe Storm Awareness Conference on April 27th. As in past years, OEM will be picking up the registration cost of 3-5 volunteers interested in participating in this all day program. Please contact Trudy at 240-777-2328 before April 14th if you are interested in attending.



EMG UPDATE

The Emergency Management Group (EMG) is comprised of public safety agencies, headed by Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Romer and Chairman and Fire Administrator Gordon Aoyagi. They meet routinely 4 times a year to review and make recommendations for disaster response in the county. In the fall the EMG activated for a Council of Govts regional Y2K exercise September 1st, and a School Crisis Intervention exercise on September 28th with Superintendent Weast in the EOC. The next planned tabletop exercise is a regional radiological terrorism attack simulation with DC and COG known as "Top-Off" on April 27th, to be followed by an unannounced full scale terrorism exercise in May. Our area hospitals have asked us to plan for a bio-terrorism exercise in the spring.

EOC AUTOMATION UPGRADES

The Dialogic Automated Notification System was upgraded with additional phone lines to improve efficiency in EOC notifications, and has been approved in the FY2001 budget for a windows version. This will greatly enhance our callout capabilities since the windows version can run more than one scenario at a time. We want to take this opportunity to give a special thanks to the staff of the Y2K Office, and especially Sonny Segal, John Nielsen, Tom Taylor, Mileva Hartman, Kevin Novak, Ken Goldman, and the others who were such a great help and partner. The Dept. of Information Systems and Telecommunications worked closely with OEM to install two new "smart boards" that track status updates, and can save information to the computer supporting the board. Thanks to MCFRS webmaster Les Better who helped run the boards during Y2K and keeps this newsletter up to date on our webpage. We also installed

a new Ethernet connection and can now access the county's GIS LAN with all its layered maps such as water lines, transportation, population concentrations, etc. We now have all the hazardous materials facilities that we license on a GIS layer for enhanced planning and emergency response.

We are working with DIST to install additional LAN and modem connections. This will greatly enhance message traffic efficiency by eliminating a lot of message form paper. And D/C Ey is working to get us additional laptops for future EOC activations.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANNING The EMG will be reviewing over a dozen Annexes of the Emergency Operations Plan for our annual review, to be presented at the May 17th EMG meeting. Comments on Annexes A-Communications, C-Search and Rescue (new), E-Emergency Medical Services, F-Law Enforcement, I-Alert and Warning, K-EOC Activation Staffing, O-Fire Rescue Disaster Plan, S-State and Federal Response Plans, U-Utilities, Y-Debris Removal (new), AA-Haz Mat, BB-Hurricane (new), and CC-Terrorism should be forwarded to EMG Committee chairmen or the Office of Emergency Management no later than mid-April.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Even though Y2K is over, we continue to keep involved in community outreach efforts. Bob Nemchin and George Gacser from PEPCO made a presentation to the employees of the federal Bureau of Engraving and Printing in March. We hope that all the information about emergency preparedness which we shared during 12 Y2K Town Meetings will continue to reap benefits in community increased preparedness for storms and other events. Call the office if you are interested in a community outreach presentation.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

We held four (4) offerings of the *Disaster Command System* last year, including three in the fall of 1999 for Senior Police, Fire/Rescue

Officers, and govt. officials that stressed activation strategies for Y2K. This February we held the *Communications in Disaster* class which is done every other year. The course was well attended by senior Police, Fire and Rescue chiefs, and volunteers from American Red Cross, RACES, REACT, Mid-Atlantic DOGS. Thanks to our instructors Andy Johnston from MCFRS, Hank Black MEMA, Mark Deputy DIST, Mike Harvey REACT, John Creel RACES, Don Dennison Mid-Atlantic DOGS, Arnold Passman Red Cross, Mike Krumlauf OEM and others who helped with the class. Upcoming training programs will include *Hazardous Weather and Flood Preparation*, and possibly a workshop on *Decontamination* and another on *Strategic Planning for EOC Officials*. Captain Lee Silverman from the MCFRS Training Division is working with the Dept. of Health and Human Services and the Volunteer Center to prepare a training program on "Effective Handling of Less Mobile Clients" to support drivers of the ETS program. Lee tells us he is putting the final touches to the video portions of the program. We expect to present this program early this fall. We will continue to provide community outreach training for groups. If you or your group of 15 or more would like to schedule a *FEMA Family Preparedness Workshop* (3-4 Hrs) please call the office.



WATER CONSERVATION/DROUGHT PLANNING UNDERWAY

Last summer marked one of the worst droughts on record for the state. Do you remember crop damage to many of our farmers, upcounty wells that went dry, and the Governor ordered mandatory water conservation efforts? Well, we

may have similar conditions this summer. Montgomery County is taking Drought preparations very seriously. CAO Bruce Romer was the keynote speaker at a national Drought Forum held this February at the National Oceanographic and Air Administration at their headquarters in Silver Spring. Kathee Henning, Kathy Talbott, and Mike Krumlauf attended the one day Drought Forum. We can also make a difference by continued water conservation throughout the year. Here are some steps you are urged to take: Do not water lawns and plant drought resistant ground cover and bushes. Take short showers rather than baths. Install low pressure faucets in bathrooms and check your toilets for leaks. Recycle gray water for plants. Do not run dishwashers and clothes washers except when full.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

To become an Emergency Management Group Volunteer call Montgomery County Emergency Management at 240-777-2300 M-F, 8:00-5:00PM. Interested in being a 4 Wheel Driver for the Emergency Transportation Service? Call the Volunteer and Community Service Center at 240-777-4949, M-F, 8:30-5:00PM



(the following article is reprinted from last summer; please clip & save)

WANT TO KNOW HOW TO BE BETTER PREPARED?

FIRST: FIND OUT WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU:

- learn about weather-related emergencies: our area has winter storms (blizzard, ice storms), hurricanes, tornadoes, flash floods
- learn about man-made emergencies: hazardous materials spills or releases, acts of violence, transportation (highway, rail, air)
- potential problems: loss of power, loss of natural gas, lack of water, shortage of food, lack of sanitation facilities, disruption to phone service
- check at your workplace, your children's school or daycare center, and other places where family members spend time to learn about their disaster plan
- check with us, your local Emergency Management officials at 240-777-2300 to learn about your county's disaster plan; copies are located in public libraries.

SECOND: PUT TOGETHER A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN AND A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT:

- store water (one gallon per person per day)
- freeze extra bread
- buy non-refrigerated milk with a longer shelf life or keep powdered milk
- have one or more manual safety can openers
- stock a first aid kit
- dehydrated foods such as instant soup or oatmeal; non-perishable foods such as canned meats and vegetables
- boxed juices and non-caffeine drinks
- paper and plastic products: disposable plates, knives, forks, spoons, napkins, and cups; paper towels, toilet paper, trash bags; special needs such as diapers for infants; self-sealing plastic food storage bags
- vitamin supplements, prescriptions, and special medications
- food for pets

- special dietary needs for infants, frail elderly, diabetic and those with allergies
- cooking fuel (sterno cans)
- emergency tools including hammer, screw driver, pliers, duct tape, plastic sheeting, nails for repairs
- *battery powered smoke detector for sleeping area*
- battery powered radio, flashlights, and extra batteries
- important family documents in a waterproof container (such as copies of prescriptions, family contact names and phone numbers, kids' school health records, family vaccination records, medical insurance and prescription cards, home owners or renter's insurance policies, wills, deeds, passports, credit card accounts, social security cards, other personal family records, traveler's checks, small amount of cash)
- *Do not use gasoline to cook or start a fire in the fireplace.*

LISTEN TO RADIO

Listen to your Emergency Alert System broadcast stations with a battery powered or solar powered radio (in the Metropolitan Washington area listen to WMAL – 630 AM; WTOP – 1500 AM and 107.7 FM; WASH – 97.1 FM; WAMU – 88.5 FM; WBIG – 100.3 FM); other stations not in the Washington EAS may send out clearer signals in the up-county areas.

Watch Cable TV Channel 55 for updated messages from Montgomery County government.

American Red Cross pamphlets: "Your Family Disaster Plan," "Preparing for Emergencies, A Checklist for People With Mobility Problems," "Helping Children Cope with Disasters."

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to PEPCO, Allegheny Power, BG&E, the Washington Post and the Gazette Newspapers that helped us distribute over 500,000 Home Preparedness Guides for Year

2000 information last year. We again want to thank Radio Shack that donated a solar powered radio, hand crank radio, battery powered flashlights and other disaster preparedness items for our demonstration Home Preparedness Kit to take to Town Meetings. Thanks to PEPCO who purchased vests for our EOC Y2K activation.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION:

Emergency Management: "Home Guide to Emergency Preparedness" or weather related pamphlets from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. **CALL 240-777-2300 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR PAMPHLETS**

For CPR classes contact Montgomery County Red Cross Chapter at 301-588- 2515 or your local fire and rescue department. Check the following county webpage for disaster preparedness information. We have made our webpage easier to find at:

www.co.mo.md.us/dfrs/emg

LEPC SUPPORTS HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF

The Local Emergency Planning Council for Hazardous Materials asks each of you to support our household hazardous waste collection program. The next drop off day will be Sunday, April 2, bet. 10-2 p.m. at the Shady Grove Road Transfer Station. The program allows residents to safely dispose of toxic, flammable, reactive or corrosive waste that is commonly used or stored in the home, garage or basement. When residents substitute less toxic or non-toxic products, only buy what is needed, and share leftover materials with others, they can significantly reduce the amount of hazardous materials they generate and keep waste out of the environment. Watch the newspapers for dates of additional programs.



CASERTA, ITALY

Kathee Henning was one of 50 individuals selected to be a member of the international delegation (US and Canada) to the World Disaster Manager's Conference in Caserta, Italy in October. Members were selected on the basis of their contributions to the International Association of Emergency Managers, natural hazards planning, EOC strategies for catastrophic events, and for their use of volunteers during disasters. The delegation was privileged to visit local Italian disaster sites and share information with elected officials and local emergency planners. Visits included the mudslides of Sarno, the ruins of Pompeii, Vulcano Solfatara, earthquake damage at Tempio di Serapide, and several days at the national training academy outside Rome. The delegation met with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Civil Defense, Prof. Barberi who is the counterpart to James Lee Witt, Director of FEMA. The Caserta volunteers provided all the support to the delegation, including rides, translators, and errands when needed. The delegation was very grateful and were able to donate a used ambulance to the Caserta volunteers. IAEM is now looking to co-sponsor an Italian delegation to US cities in the next year. The Italians expressed a keen interest in taking training at one or more of our Public Safety Training Academies, with an emphasis on advanced rescue skills.

HAZ-MAT INSPECTIONS

On January 10th OEM started a Pilot Inspection program to identify new businesses operating without a Hazardous Materials Use

Permit. Barbara Moore, our new Permit Technician and Program Specialist Mike Krumlauf have been making the initial site visits to businesses. In addition to discovering new businesses without a permit, the program found a number of facilities that had been operating for years without the permit. Staff are now working with all these companies to bring these into compliance. The information gathered under this program provides emergency contact names, phone numbers, and chemical inventories for first responders through the 911 Center, and the Hazardous Materials Response Team. Since the program began, our office has been able to track the location of over 140,000 chemicals located in the county. More information about the program will be presented at the April 26th LEPC meeting.

FEMA INDEPENDENT STUDIES

OEM staff want to remind our volunteers and partners that if you cannot make classes in the day, the Federal Emergency Management Agency now has over a dozen independent study books that you can order directly or online at www.fema.gov. We encourage our EMG volunteers to complete IS-5 "A Citizen's Guide to Hazardous Materials," and IS-275 "Role of the Emergency Operations Center in Community Preparedness Response and Recovery." Write directly to the FEMA Independent Study Program, EMI, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 240-77727 for booklets.



CIVIL DEFENSE/EM MONUMENT

After almost 20 years of lobbying, a monument to recognize the accomplishments and history of Civil Defense and Emergency Management has been approved by FEMA.

Final location will be selected by FEMA Director Witt at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg. Emergency Managers nationally are raising \$100,000 for the monument. The Fallen Firefighters Memorial is currently at EMI/NFA. Maryland Emergency Management Association has already committed \$500 to the project. During the kickoff ceremony Kathleen Henning was among three people honored and a donation of \$200 was made in her name by Bob Straw, Pennsylvania York County EMA. Thanks to all who are working to make the monument a reality with all donated funds. If you wish to contribute, contact Kathee Henning for tax exempt donation information.

PERSONNEL NOTES

- District Chief E. Buddy Ey was promoted to Research and Planning March 12th, and he will be supervising Emergency Management in the Office of the Fire Administrator. (We are no longer under the Fire Marshal). His most recent experience came from the Public Safety Training Academy where he managed in-service training, and prior to that, as the Captain in the 911 Center. He has a keen interest in automation and communications.
- Barbara Moore was promoted to a newly created position Permit Technician on November 22. The Principal Administrative Aide is currently vacant but is expected to be filled shortly.
- Kathee Henning is a member of the LOWES Home Safety Council Board of Directors. She helped design the *Mystery Safety Tour* trailer, based on *Risk Watch* injury prevention messages. Last year the LHSC raised \$4 million in donations which will be used to fund a second trailer to tour over 100 US cities and elementary schools.

classes.

- Dustin Poist, a fire science student at Montgomery College and a volunteer at the Kensington Volunteer Fire Dept, recently completed an internship on Risk Assessment with our office.
- Two light duty firefighters have been very instrumental in helping us work with regulated businesses who are late or delinquent in filing for haz-mat permits. Thanks to firefighters Dianne Mascaro and Rob Reyes for all their help.
- Congrats to Assistant Chief Mike Love on his appointment as Chairman to the Montgomery County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC).
- Special thanks to US Army Sgt. Darlene Schongalla for all her efforts in responding to Y2K, exercises, her prompt and insightful after-action reports, and now her valuable assistance in updating our Shelter Database.
- Congratulations to new grandparent and RACES Dep. Officer Howard Gorden.
- Mary Marchone retires March 30 after 36 years as Fire Education specialist for the department. Mary, who has trained a new generation of *Risk Watch* instructors, has been named the Wisconsin state *Risk Watch* coordinator. We wish her the very best.
- Congratulations to Trudy Georgestone, Kathy Talbott, Mike Krumlauf, Bob Nemchin, and Kathee Henning who completed their annual re-certification in CPR. Staff are also taking the MCFRS Hazardous Materials Awareness and Bloodborne Pathogens/Infection Control

WHERE TO CALL:

If you need to reach our office, any of our staff, or some of the main offices, here are some handy numbers to jot down:

Office (8:00AM-5:00PM)

240-777-2300

Haz Mat Hotline 240-777-2341

Fax 240-777-2345

Kathee Henning 240-777-2323

Bob Nemchin 240-777-2324

Mike Krumlauf 240-777-2325

Kathy Talbott 240-777-2326

Barbara Moore 240-777-2327

Trudy Georgestone 240-777-2328

PAA (vacant) 240-777-2329

Research & Planning 240-777-2466

Fire Administrator 240-777-2400

Fire Rescue Info. 240-777-2000

We are located at Room 220, Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850

Please send us information for our next quarterly newsletter to Kathee Henning at kathee.henning@co.mo.md.us.



***EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FIRE AND RESCUE
ROOM 220
100 MARYLAND AVENUE
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850***